



AMBS

AMBS FAAware

Financial Aid Awareness Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 2

April 2010

Special points of interest:

- Financial Aid Deadline
- Exit Counseling
- Changes to Student Loans
- Student debt repayment

Reminder: Deadline to Apply for Financial Aid



May 1 is the deadline to apply for [AMBS financial aid](#) for the 2010-11 academic year.

All admitted students are eligible to apply for AMBS aid, which is distributed according to demonstrated financial need. Full-time students may qualify for grants of up to 25% of tuition; Mennonite and International students may be eligible for grants of up to 50% of

tuition. Students taking fewer than nine credit hours (part-time) receive half the amount of aid as they would if they were full-time students.

Applications and supporting documents received after the May 1 deadline will be processed in light of remaining funds, and **students run the risk of not receiving financial aid if applications are submitted late.** For students planning to enroll midyear, you are strongly encouraged to also submit the application by the **May 1 deadline.**

Students must submit a [financial aid application](#) each year for review and reevaluation. Don't forget to submit your [church commitment form](#) if you anticipate financial support from your church/conference. US students must also submit their [FAFSA](#) before the deadline.

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Planning to graduate this May? Read this!

If you received federal student loan (Stafford) funds during any portion of your time as a student at AMBS and are planning to graduate in May, you must complete an exit counseling session before the date of commencement in order to receive your diploma.

Federal regulations require graduating students to complete [exit counseling](#), providing information about debt repayment options and how to manage student loans.

The financial aid office must receive results from

your [exit counseling](#) by May 19 in order for you to receive your diploma.



Financial Aid Awareness



While it's not always the most pleasant topic to discuss, financial aid is a subject that weighs heavily on students' minds. To address student concerns and provide education about various financial resources, a

Financial Aid Awareness Break was held this month. Topics discussed included:

- ⇒ Student debt repayment
- ⇒ Financial Resources
- ⇒ Financial Aid Application
- ⇒ Changes in the federal student loan program

If you missed the breaks or just need more information, please contact [Jody Walker](#) in the Financial

Aid office.

Whether you attended the breaks or not, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts about the areas of financial aid you feel would be most helpful. Your responses will determine the direction of future financial aid awareness efforts. Click [here](#) to take a short survey. Your anonymous responses will be carefully considered as we seek to address your needs.

“The U.S. Department of Education will be the one and only lender for all federal Stafford loans.”

Changes to Federal Stafford Loans for 2010-2011

Like many post-secondary schools, AMBS has participated in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) where students borrow federal student loans from participating lenders. This program has been used at AMBS for all Stafford loans.

With the passing of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 earlier this month, students will no longer choose from multiple banks and credit unions to fund their student loans. Instead, the U.S. Department of Education

will be the one and only lender for all federal Stafford loans.

This change comes in the wake of turmoil in the financial markets, which led many private lenders to suspend or terminate their participation in FFELP. As a result, AMBS will convert to the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, commonly known as “Direct Loans,” for the 2010-2011 academic year. While this is a major change concerning the origination of our student loans, we do not expect any significant

problems. The financial aid and business offices are working hard to make this transition as smooth and seamless as possible for AMBS students.

This change will necessitate that students sign a new Master Promissory Note (MPN), even if one was signed earlier in the year. More information about the MPN and steps to apply for Stafford loans will be available by mid-summer and will be included with students' financial aid award letters this June.

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.”

2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

Money-saving Web Sites

PaperBackSwap:

<http://www.paperbackswap.com>

It's simply book swapping—mail out a book you've already read to someone who wants it and get a credit, then spend that credit to get a book from someone else. You can get books in the mail for about \$2 (the cost of sending out one of your old ones).

Skype: <http://www.skype.com>

Allows you to use the internet as your telephone service, allowing you to call any number in the U.S., Canada, and a few other countries as well as have your own phone number for about \$3 a month.

RetailMeNot:

<http://www.retailmenot.com>

A coupon site which shows a large quantity of coupon codes that can shave some cash off of your total bill—whether it's groceries, carry-out pizza, or that pair of shoes you've been needing.

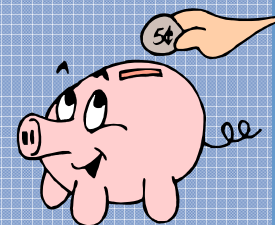
Hulu: <http://www.hulu.com>

Disconnecting your cable is a great way to save money. Some of the series you watch may be found on Hulu for free.

Craigslist and **Freecycle:**

<http://www.craigslist.org> and

<http://www.freecycle.org>



Student Loan Repayment—What are your options?

Like other AMBS students, you may have borrowed money to attend school. If you are graduating this spring, you may be entering repayment for those loans before 2010 comes to a close. Wondering how you will manage repayment? Keep reading...

After graduation (or dropping below 6 credit hours per semester), students with Stafford loans will enter a six-month grace period before they have to make their first payment. If you had loans in deferment due to your enrollment status at AMBS, you will enter the repayment grace period for these as well. Follow these simple steps to successfully repay your student loans, keep your credit history clean, and stay out of default:

◆ **Know what you owe and to whom**

You can find all of your outstanding balances and their respective lenders/servicers through the National Student Loan Data System—NSLDS. Visit nslds.ed.gov to know exactly how much you owe and to whom. This is essential, especially if you have to make multiple payments to various lenders/servicers. To access the site, you will need the PIN you used to sign your FAFSA.

◆ **Know what repayment plans are available**

Borrowers are automatically enrolled in the standard repayment plan, but can choose a

different plan if it works better for them.

There are many options to choose from:

- **Standard**—Equal monthly payments of at least \$50 (depending on your loan balance) for up to 10 years.
- **Graduated**—Monthly payments start lower, but increase over time for up to 10 years.
- **Income-sensitive**—Monthly payments are based on your income and your total loan amount for up to 10 years. It is necessary to reapply for this plan each year.
- **Income-based**—Reduced monthly payments if you demonstrate a partial financial hardship with eligibility reevaluated each year. At the end of 25 years of repayment and 300 payments, any remaining balance may be forgiven.
- **Extended**—Payments are fixed or gradually increase over 25 years for loan debt that exceeds \$30,000.
- **Consolidation**—Combines federal loans into a single loan, which may give you a smaller monthly payment but could also increase the total amount of interest you pay over the life of the loan.

Decide which option works best for you, taking into account what you can afford and how much interest you'll pay in the long run.

Defaulting on your student loans (failing to make payments) has serious consequences. Not only does it affect your credit and financial status, a high default rate can also prevent AMBS from providing federal Stafford loans to future students.

Looking for campus employment?
Check out the Web site!

Visit <http://www.ambs.edu/employment/student-employment>
to view the latest job opportunities at AMBS.
Check often! Postings for summer and fall employment
are added frequently between now and the end of summer.

Important Dates—May

- 1** Deadline to apply for financial aid for the 2010-11 academic year
- 19** Last day for graduating students to complete student loan exit counseling in order to receive diploma at graduation
- 22** Commencement

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Important Dates—June

- 1** Summer Session I begins—tuition due
*Last day to register for session 1 classes
4:01 and beyond: Late payment of \$25 applies*
- 2** New student advising and registration day
- 11** Summer Session II begins—tuition due
*Last day to register for session 2 classes
4:01 and beyond: Late payment of \$25 applies*

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Visit us on the web: www.ambs.edu
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explore~prepare~serve